CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the YEAR

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To, The Chairman and Members of the Chippenham Rural District Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the pleasure of presenting my Annual Report. This is compiled upon the lines indicated in the Memorandum and Circular 269 dated 28th. December 1921, issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Rural District of Chippenham has an area of 57,770 acres, and an estimated population of 14,410.

Number of inhabited houses 1921, 3676.
Number of Private Families 3736.
Reduced Assessable Value. 83,858.
Sum represented by a penny rate. £406.

1923 was a healthy year, no special reports were made or required.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
BIRTHS	Legitimate & Illegitimate.	274	148	126	Birth Rate 19.00 per 1,000 Population 14,410
DEATHS		186	89	97	Death Rate 12.90

Birth Rate R. G. 19.00 Death Rate R. G. 12.90

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth. from Sepsis 1. from other causes) None.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:-

Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total.
13.	1.	14.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

2 cases of Diphtheria were notified, both were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and both recovered.
42 cases of Scarlatina were notofoed, 34 admitted to the Isolation Hospital, all recovered.
25 cases of Tubercular disease were notofoed, 22 Pulmonary, 3 others non-pulmonary, 12 males and 13 females.
There was 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were 3 deaths from Whooping Cough, none from Measles.

CHICKEN POX. In view of the prevelence of Small Pox in the adjoining County of Gloucester, the Council on the 16th. July 1923 as a matter of urgency, and with the consent of the Ministry of Health, adopted Sec. 7 (6) of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889 declaring chicken pox a notofable disease within the District until the 31st. December 1923. This was subsequently extended to the 30th. June 1923. 102 cases were so notified.

The Nursing arrangements are worked from Trowbridge by the County Medical Officer of Health.

There are 3 district Nurses provided by private subscription.

Besides the Poor Law Institution Infirmary there is an Isolation and a Cottage Hospital. The Cottage Hospital is maintained by private contributions and some payments from patients. The Isolation Hospital is a joint one maintained by the Rural and Urban Authorities. There are two Ambulances one for infectious cases and one for accidents and non-infectious cases.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are in regular use, Antitoxin can be obtained at the Isolation Hospital by Medical Men free of charge.

WATER SUPPLIES. BOX.

A new Crossley Engine and two throw pumps have been installed at Widdenham. The old water wheel and pump have been abolished and a new wheel and pump substituted. It is hoped that the water supply of Box Hill will now be regularly maintained so long as the springs do not fail.

WASHWELLS.

The supply to the existing receiving tank has been increased and the spring at St. Patrick's has been opened up resulting in increased yield. Pumping during the summer months may be continued for longer periods than has been possible in the past.

ASHLEY.

The 2" water main at Ashley has been extended for a distance of 555 ~~ye~~ yards.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

CASTLE COMBE.

A portion of an old stone drock for a distance of 155 yards has been taken up and a 12" stoneware pipe substituted.

In the parishes of Box, Corsham and Castle Combe 13 premises have had drains relaid.

MILK & DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

The Council's attention has been directed to the desirability of adopting Regulations under the Dairies, Cow sheds & Milkshops Order, 1885 for the observation of Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk.

A Committee has been formed and after several sittings draft regulations were framed and have been sent to the Ministry of Health for approval.

HOUSING ACTS, 1909-1923.

1. Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total 14

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923:

(i) By Local Authority ... ... --

(ii) By other bodies or persons... ... ... --

(Subsidies promised in respect of 9 houses)

2. Unfit dwelling houses.

Inspection- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 251

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910. ... ... ---

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ... ... ----

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... 251

3. Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. ... ... ---

4. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 23 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... ---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:-

(a) by Owners ... ... ---

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... ---

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close. ... ...---

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.. ... 251

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied

(a) by Owners 52

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners. --

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning. &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of ~~dwelling-house~~representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders. 2

(2) Number off dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit. . . .. --

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... --

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished voluntarily 1.

PLANS.

Total number of plans of all structures receivedand considered by the Council 60

BUILDING BYELAWS.

Acting upon the Suggestion of the Ministry of Health the Council have had under consideration the question of adopting new Building Byelaws based on the Ministry's model series for Rural Districts. A draft of same has been sent to the Ministry of Health for thier approval.

The following is a list of the inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector:-

General Sanitary 381, Water Inspections 209, Sewage Outfalls 90, Factory & Workshops 36, Slaughterhouses 26, Offensive Trades 4, Housing Re-inspections 251, Building Inspections 192, Cowsheds &c. 169, Total 1358.

I have the honour to remain, Your obedient Servant,
WILLM. THOS. PRINCOE, B.A., M.D.
Medical Officer of Health.